



2131
PATENT #6
450101-02452

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

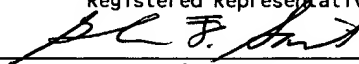
Applicants : Tomoyuki ASANO et al.
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APPARATUS
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in
37 C.F.R. 1.56, applicants are filing this Information Disclosure
Statement and the accompanying form PTO-1449 along with copies of
the prior art therein identified. Such prior art has come to the
attention of applicants by being cited in a Search Report issued

in the corresponding European application on May 21, 2002. So far as applicants are aware, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the documents identified herein constitute prior art to the present application.

Please charge any fees incurred by the filing of this document or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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